

The Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy

R. B. Cutler
38 Union St.
Manchester, Mass. 01944

Part 1. Introduction by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

On June 4, 1968, Senator Robert F. Kennedy won the primary election of the Democratic Party in the state of California. He at once became the top logical candidate of the Democratic Party to run for President of the United States in the November 1968 elections against Richard M. Nixon. To give Nixon any chance for the Presidency, Kennedy had to be eliminated. He was eliminated. After a talk before a great audience in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, Kennedy was taken out a back way through a pantry and there about 12:15 am on June 5 shot to death.

Sirhan was charged with the crime, tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death, later commuted to life imprisonment. The Los Angeles Police Department organized a division "Special Unit Senator" which conducted over 4000 interviews. Sirhan was prosecuted, and the Prosecutor obtained a conviction. A book "Special Unit Senator" written by Robert A. Houghton (who was in charge of the unit) "as told to Theodore Taylor" was published by Random House in 1970 describing the investigation.

Actually the investigation, prosecution, and official reports were a coverup of a conspiracy. The evidence for this statement is extremely simple.

Sirhan's gun could have held eight bullets. But twelve bullets were actually fired.

None of Sirhan's seven bullets hit the body of Senator Kennedy. Three bullets from "the other gun," a gun held by a "temporary hotel guard," Eugene Thane Cesar, did hit Senator Kennedy, and one of those bullets entering the right mastoid was the bullet that killed the Senator.

This information is largely based on the evidence gathered by Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, the Chief Los Angeles County Medical Examiner and Coroner. Noguchi stated that the wound path of three bullets in Senator Kennedy were from the back to the front and traveled in an upward direction. These bullets were associated with powder burns, and were fired from a distance of not more than four inches. The closest that Sirhan ever came to Kennedy was very close to four feet.

Even a simple-minded writer of detective stories could have done better than Houghton and Taylor in their book. The book contains no index: so we made one; it was published in the October 1970 issue of "Computers and Automation". The book contains:

-- no list of all the persons present with Kennedy at 12:15 am in the pantry;

-- no count of the bullets fired;

-- just one single sentence that mentions Eugene Thane Cesar (and he is only mentioned in passing)

For more information, see the article "The Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy" in the August 1970 issue of "Computers and Automation".

Part 2. Inventory of Shots and Bullets

by R. B. Cutler, assisted by information from Lillian Castellano, and weights of bullets and fragments obtained from William Harper

<u>Shot</u>	<u>Victim</u>	<u>Wound and Notes</u>
#1	Robert F. Kennedy	none; bullet passed through right shoulder pad of suit coat; back to front and upward; went through the acoustical tile ceiling, ricocheted off concrete slab above, came back through the ceiling and caromed off north pantry wall; witness: M. Patrusky
#2	"	through-the-chest; traverse-line is back to front and upward from backside near right arm-pit to exit on front of chest, upper portion; bullet went through acoustical tile ceiling and was 'lost' in the space above
#3	"	entered close to wound of bullet #2; traversed back to front and upward along back muscles and lodged in neck near sixth vertebra; bullet was recovered during autopsy: 37.3 gr
#4	"	right mastoid; fired from range under 2", bullet traversed back to front and upward fragmenting into the cerebellum; 27.0 gr were recovered, largest fragment: 22.6 gr. This bullet was the cause of Senator Kennedy's death. Note the position of Sirhan's gun in INSET: $\pm 48^\circ$ in front of R.F.K.
#5	Paul Schrade	top of head; bullet continued through to underside of door frame header ("sparks" witnessed by Roger Katz); fragment recovered from victim: 11.6 gr

#6	Irwin Stroll	left leg; bullet passed through Goldstein's trouser leg without wounding him, ricocheted off the floor into Stroll; bullet recovered from victim: 36.6 gr
#7	Ira Goldstein	left thigh; bullet recovered from victim: 37.3 gr
#8	door-post divider	hole about 60" off the floor; bullet recovery not admitted by Los Angeles Police Dept. (LAPD); LAPD encircled bullet holes in Clemente's photograph of door-post divider
#9	door-post divider	hole about 55" off the floor; bullet recovery not admitted by LAPD; LAPD encircled bullet holes in Clemente's photograph of door-post divider
#10	Elizabeth Evans	entered forehead and proceeded along top of head; she was bending over to find her shoe when she was hit; two pieces recovered from victim: 30.3 gr; one fragment still in head
#11	stage door jamb	hole in westerly jamb of stage door frame; bullet recovered (AP photo caption) but never mentioned by LAPD
#12	William Weisel	left side of abdomen; bullet recovered from victim: 37.4 gr

Part 3. The Other Gun in the Pantry

by R. B. Cutler, with information obtained from Lillian Castellano

Coroner Thomas Noguchi's autopsy report is very clear on the less than two-inch range of the fatal shot which entered the Senator's head at the right mastoid, behind his right ear. This is at complete variance with Sirhan being the assassin; the INSET clearly shows the sequence of events of Sirhan's movements and actions. He was standing next to the tray stacker when Carl Uecker, the hotel's maitre d', came into the pantry leading Senator Kennedy by his right hand; as drawn in INSET, the maitre d' was with his left hand holding the Senator's right hand. Sirhan stepped out next from to the tray stacker, lunged around Uecker's body, "fell over steam table", and started firing. Uecker testified he "heard the first and second shots and Mr. Kennedy fell out of my hand". Noguchi's autopsy report states that it was not possible to track the traverse-line of the through-the-chest shot, #2, unless the right arm was fully extended; this is the basis for listing the firing sequence above. It is Mrs. Lillian Castellano's opinion, and I find no evidence to think otherwise, that the first four shots were fired by the other gun. It does seem logical that in the confusion there might be no way of ever telling when Sirhan first fired; I have assumed, even though it was impossible to show in a drawing, that #3 and #4 probably were virtually simultaneous with #5 and #6. The complexity required for showing two guns, and the flightpaths of twelve bullets has made this drawing difficult.

(please turn to page 8)

Downing - *Continued from page 1*
by the Commission?

Then there is the matter of the so-called "magic bullet." Enclosed is pertinent material furnished to me which I am glad to share with you.

These are a few of the hundreds of questions, the answers to which the American people are entitled if we are ever to know the truth about the assassination and the investigation. If you are interested in knowing the truth, I would be pleased to have you as a co-sponsor. A list of current co-sponsors follows. Call Ms. Connor, X54261, by 6:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 25.

Sincerely,
Tom

Co-sponsors:

Whitehurst	Waxman	Bowen
Harris	Downey	Blanchard
Edgar	McCloskey	Buchanan
Winn	Randall	Flowers
Spellman	Roe	Mathis
Lagomarsino	Snyder	Burgener
Florio	Talcott	

□

CORRECTION

by David Williams

The column "the JFK Assassination: Recent Developments" by David Williams in the August issue should have expressed the following information:

.... Among the material being sought is the results of the neutron-activation analysis of the bullet fragments. The suppression of this evidence has fueled speculation that the results did not support the Warren Commission's findings. However, countless suits filed through the Freedom of Information Act by researcher Harold Weisberg have begun to yield results. Some of the results are being turned over to Weisberg, Dr. Wecht, and others. They have so far withheld comment on what the tests show until a complete disclosure is made by the FBI and government officials and until the validity and thoroughness of the examination can be evaluated

Dr. Wecht has not filed "many, many suits." □

QUESTION TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS - PLEASE VOTE

Many of our subscribers have asked that a selection of important articles published 1970-75 in "Computers and Automation" and "Computers and People" dealing with political assassinations in the United States be assembled into a book and reprinted together. The question facing us is: "Will this effort pay for itself? or will it just be another drain on our resources?"

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THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY: PART 4. PLAN and SECTION of the Scene

by R. B. Cutler, Architect, 38 Union St., Manchester, Mass. 01944
Place: The pantry of the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, Calif.

Place: The pantry of the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California
Time: June 5, 1968, about 12:15 a.m.

Cutler = continued from page 7

